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THE CANADIAN RAILROADER

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THE CANADIAN RAILROADER



THE GHOST DANCE OF THE CATHOLIC
NATIONAL LABOR UNIONS
MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING
MUST BE SOWN

Aims of the British Labor Party

OTTAWA, LONDON AND SCOTTISH LETTERS

From Our Own Correspondents.

OFFICIAL ORGAN,
FIFTH SUNDAY
MEETING ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA

MONTREAL, MAY 1st, 1920

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The Ghost Dance of the Catholic National Labor Unions

(By George Pierce.)

FOR thousands of years the artfully endowed have paraded before an excited mankind a shadowy procession of Ghosts. One witty writer remarked that these weird phantoms were the school-masters of our ancestors. There have been good ghosts and bad ghosts, benevolent and malevolent ghosts. Disease and health, happiness and misery, fortune and misfortune, peace and conflict, life and death, were the dispensations of the ghosts.

The learned among men have assiduously taught the multitude that there were definite methods of appeasing the wrath of ghostly gods. They urged sacrifice by fasting and prayers, by incantations, by prostrations and flagellations, by shedding the blood of animals and men, by inventing instruments of torture and by burning at the stake. Emperors and kings, poets and peasants, sinners and saints, the lowly and the exalted, shivered and quivered in the chill of ghostly nightmares. Reason was manacled and superstition reigned unchallenged, the king in the domain of man's thought.

Perhaps my mind is somewhat perverted, for I must confess that I have always found something comical and humorous in the gyrations of the ghosts. I am also particularly amused by the discovery of a common trait or characteristic closely associated with ghost craft. Whenever a ghost appears, there is always a professional appeaser who stands ready, for considerations, to calm the wrath of the irate phantom.

I must confess to great amusement in watching the precipitate scramble of the hysterical and agitated public, rushing about in shadow-land, bombarding the peace makers with fruits of the earth.

But, of all the ghosts that have come and gone, and I acknowledge an acquaintance with a legion of

grey personalities, there is none more grotesque than the ghost of the Catholic National Labor Unions of Quebec.

With a flippancy altogether unbecoming to the ghosts of yore, she has toe-danced out into the public arena to the utter bewilderment of the astonished manufacturer on the one hand, and the bedazzled working-man on the other. While labor has viewed the fantasy with perplexity, some of the manufacturers have contrived an attachment to the shadowy shirt-tail of the apparition. The altogether unusual arrangement has resulted in a **Dance of the Goblins** that has greatly disturbed industrial equilibriums in the Province of Quebec.

The extraordinary feature of the whole performance lies in the fact that the community is making a tremendous **Ado about nothing**. The Catholic priests have been active in organizing unions of men, women and children into so-called Catholic National Labor Unions. In districts which were isolated, they have succeeded in organizing the people, because there were no international unions established in such centres. In the larger centres, they have been gathering in clerks and whatnots among the classes that never dreamed of organization. The result simply is that a limited number of people are receiving their rudimentary lessons in the value of organization. It won't be long before they become eligible as members of the bona-fide trades union movement. The astonishing growth of the International trades union movement in Quebec during the last few weeks, conclusively demonstrates that the agitation carried on by the Catholic unions has resulted in awakening the worker to a sense of his responsibility to his fellow man, which in turn has caused him to apply for membership in the International unions. There is not a single desertion from the Internationals to the Catholic union group. Whatever membership the Catholic unions are securing, comes from the unorganized masses.

Years of experience in the trades union movement demonstrates that no trades union can exist unless it proves to be of financial benefit to its membership.

Examine the constitution of the Catholic National Union, ask any Trades Unionist if he would care to subscribe to such doctrines, and you will realize that it is predestined to failure.

The International unions should tender a vote of thanks to the Catholic organizations who are busy in organizing groups of men which the International has never been able to reach.

Those manufacturers who are

backing the new movement will be somewhat astonished, with the rising of the mist, when the light of day dispels the shadows, to find International ranks greatly augmented in membership. As a trades unionist, having the interest of the trades union movement at heart, I earnestly advocate letting the ghost dance go on.

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Those who believe this movement is driving a wedge into the solidarity of union labor, those who are backing this movement morally and perhaps financially, will have a rude awakening when the sun-light comes and the goblins return to the mystic vales where superstition, ignorance and fear reign, the domain called FAILURE.

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A Permanent Tariff Commission. --- Its Nature and Functions

(By WALTER S. JOHNSON, in *Journal of Canadian Bankers' Association.*)

THE Tariff Commission Bill has been killed. What killed it? Specious argument and impossible amendments, prejudice and partisanship. Based upon the experience and the undoubted success of the tariff commissions of Germany and the United States, the Bill was honestly designed for the benefit of Canada and of all sections of the population. It could have done no harm; and if the work of the American Board is a criterion, would probably have brought about a readjustment of the tariff in many schedules more favorable to the consumer and not unfair to the producer. While the manufacturers, who are naturally on the defensive, asked for a tariff commission in the belief that it would make possible greater stability and certainty in tariff matters (the benefit to them being thus indirect), the consumer would receive the direct benefit, in that the consideration of his claims would undoubtedly mean a change in or a readjustment of the tariff, particularly in cases where the existing tariff gives the producer more protection than is necessary. So that moderate rather than high protection, or, in other words, only that degree of protection which the producer could justify after the most impartial and thorough inquiry, would be encouraged — for that must be the result of the "scientific investigation" of which we have heard so much.

Opposition to the bill has been based upon several grounds. It has been solemnly and vociferously declared by the opponents of the bill, on the floor of the House and in the party press, that the Government is playing directly and intentionally into the hands of the manufacturers; and that it will be impossible to find three commissioners so fair-minded, responsible and patriotic that they will not color their reports and also favor the manufacturers. One might as reasonably assert that the appointment to the Supreme Court Bench of a Cabinet Minister would carry with it as corollary the continuance of partisanship. As both political parties are committed to protection, it might not be impossible to find three honest gentlemen of the loyal opposition quite ready and quite qualified to form the first Board; their avowed leaning towards moderate protection would be no serious bar, under the circumstances! The project is rather one to which, after its scope and intention are understood, no party or class can fairly raise objection. A permanent tariff commission would be national in scope — as national as a forestry or waterways or railway commission; it should and would be above party — though its creation has been made a party issue; and, while not a universal preventive and panacea, it would go far towards taking the tariff out of politics.

The commerce and the commercial relations of great competing countries are getting beyond the experimental or the bullying stage; a degree of fineness has become essential in tariff adjustments which may be based on scientific data. Punitive expeditions in tariff-making may make interesting reading, but will be unknown in practice in the not distant future. In that a tariff commission, properly constituted and administered, can supply accurate information upon which tariff adjustments can be precisely considered, we may look for greater stability of aim and method and less experimentation in tariff legislation, and the assurance that prejudice and local or class interests and party slogans, while they will be weighed and analysed, will be less influential than in the past. It matters little whether a protectionist or free-trade policy be in force — and the principle of protection appears to be in no peril — the findings of the commission would enable the protectionist to adjust the tariff to the needs of trade and commerce; or would warn the free-trader where trade, too free, if we may use the expression, might involve loss of markets which a measure of protection save or even stimulate. We may look to the commission to assume as one of its most dif-

ficult tasks, the gathering and collating of facts from which complaints of the increased cost of living may be answered by tariff reduction, or the demands of special industries for complete or fuller protection may be adjudicated upon.

That the average business man should welcome the project for a permanent tariff board is but one indication that business men want more sanity and less opportunism in tariff administration. Let the State get down to business in this vital question of the tariff. The manufacturers do not want over-protection, but they do want certainty, a logical application of law to facts, and to take the tariff out of politics. They want the tariff to be made strictly a matter of business. For the premise being granted that we are, and probably will remain, a protected country, all that the manufacturer asks is that he be given such protection as will at least put him on an even footing with foreigners who may wish to compete in his market. That is all he asks — and it is all he is entitled to get. Now that measure of protection cannot be applied unless it is known with reasonable certainty what it costs the foreigner to make and lay down in our market a given article, and what it costs our home manufacturer to do the same — information which only a tariff commission may secure. But once that accurate information is obtained and the appropriate tariff applied, there is no valid reason why the tariff should be altered, unless it can be definitely shown that economic conditions at home or abroad have so changed as to make a revision of the

tariff necessary or advisable. Certainly, without such a reason, it is preposterous and most unbusiness-like that a mere change in government should mean an arbitrary and disturbing alteration of the existing tariff. And that is what is meant by "taking the tariff out of politics." Capital is proverbially sensitive. Readjustment, even when changes are not violent, because of the multitudinous issues to be considered in an enterprise of any importance, is always difficult, always accompanied with more or less loss, either direct or incident to reorganization. This apprehension of the uncertainties of frequent and perhaps unexpected revisions of the tariff is a drag on industries whose operations must as a result be bounded by too near a horizon of limitation and caution. In the hope, therefore, of rendering the tariff no longer the mere shuttlecock of political parties and to prevent "tariff tinkering", industrial leaders welcome the creation of a board whose outlook upon the materials for tariff legislation would be worldwide, whose members would preserve always the judicial attitude and be above suspicion of party prejudice or the reproach of furthering class interests.

Upon the assumption that tariff legislation should be based upon accurate knowledge of trade conditions and economic laws, it is reasonable to suppose that the members of a temporary committee of Parliament have neither the time nor the equipment for a personal and satisfactory inquiry along the lines indicated.

To secure the proper material the investigation would necessarily be carried on continuously during at least a number of years. If for no other reason than that of continuity of effort and the accumulation of comparative statistics, the work should be entrusted to a permanent board whose fund of experience would become very shortly a great national asset. This is so apparent that it is a matter of surprise to find here and there genuine misapprehension of the functions and powers of a board so constituted, and the fear expressed that the board may usurp some powers of government, or put the Government out of countenance, or even put the Government in a tight corner. That view of the matter perhaps a brief explanation may dispel.

We need only go back to the meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association of 1905 to find the first proposal for a Canadian Tariff Commission. Mr. W. K. McNaught, the President of the Association at that time, frankly stated that Canadians, and more particularly the manufacturers, were learning to view the tariff problem more as a national than as a political issue; and that as a result, if the tariff were to be made adequate, stable and fair, a commission should be appointed to deal "carefully and consistently with every phase of the question from a purely business standpoint." He thought that this could be accomplished through a commission having an advisory capacity, whose recommendations both Parliament and people would at their peril refuse to accept. And there the matter rested until 1908. Meanwhile a change had

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taken place in the conception of the functions of such a commission. Clearly, the commission would be more independent and less open to untoward influences, if it had no advisory capacity, but acted solely as a diligent gleaner of facts relative to commerce and industry from which the Government could draw its own conclusions. On tactical grounds alone this is the wise suggestion; for no Government would wish to be controlled or brow-beaten by the commission of its own creation — a condition that might easily arise if a commission having the public confidence were to "advise" the Government to adopt a policy inconsistent with its platform. It is quite clear to any fair-minded person that it is not the intention or the covert desire of the manufacturers, of the industrial interests generally, to "take the tariff out of politics" in order to get it into the hands of a friendly commission, or to restrict in any sense whatever or to infringe upon the rights and responsibilities of Parliament. The Railway Commission might to-morrow be changed into a Tariff Commission, and without change of members proceed to investigate industrial conditions and the facts of trade and commerce, and the manufacturers, and the people at large, would feel that they were in the hands of the most capable and most loyal of citizens and commissioners. Their findings would be findings of fact only, impartial, exact, exhaustive. Their findings would be submitted to Parliament, and their duty in the particular subject ended. With such a commission, I repeat, the manufacturers and the industrial interests would be satisfied; for that is what they want, and what we may hope, they will have. Nor would any shuffling or change of members be necessary, or even wise, with a change of government; for the commission's experience would be its best asset, its utter impartiality its guarantee of continued usefulness.

It will be conceded that the facts must be secured and analysed if fair and effective tariff legislation is to be enacted. But what facts?

The work of the commission would be carried on along three main lines which the experience of the American Tariff Commission has proved effective. These the Chairman of the American Board has outlined somewhat as follows:—

1. Each article of the tariff would be taken up separately, and definite and precise information obtained as to its nature, the chief sources of supply at home and abroad, the methods employed in its manufacture or production, its chief uses. Corollary to these there would follow statistics of production, import, and export, with an estimate of the *ad valorem* equivalent for all specific duties. As President Taft put it, a "glossary of the tariff" would be prepared which would embrace the leading facts, technical or commercial, concerning the particular article.

This work would be entrusted to an office force of statisticians and economists assisted by expert technical advice in the investigation of special industries.

2. Within certain limitations, in-

formation would be sought as to the cost of production. Cost accountants would get this set of facts by first hand study of the books of various companies — of probably many companies, in each industry and in different parts of the country.

3. The information so obtained would not be most useful without going a step further. It would be necessary to have accurate information concerning prices at home and abroad, the peculiar local conditions affecting a given industry, and the general conditions of home and foreign competition to which it is subject. This important research would be entrusted to men qualified by reason of their connection with or knowledge of the particular industry under consideration.

Now it may be that a commission constituted in Canada with the powers just outlined, will meet with some opposition. But remember, the manufacturers have asked for an expert and impartial Board to find facts upon which to enact a stable tariff. In many instances an expert independent examination of books and accounts may not be welcome. Ordinarily companies are most jealous of information concerning the costs of material and workmanship and of the marketing of their goods; they are not anxious that their rivals should have this information, and they are sometimes anxious that even their shareholders should not have it. Yet the independent personal examination will be necessary. The

commission should not attempt to arrive at its decisions merely upon this evidence, or upon any evidence obtained in a similar way: that would in reality mean an *ex parte* decision. It would wish, however, to investigate on its own account first, so that it might be thoroughly posted when the evidence would be completed by the appearance before it of representatives of various industries to urge reasons for or against the existing rate of duty. Then only, after the *ex parte* investigation and the hearing of evidence, could the Board come to any valuable conclusion. Undoubtedly that should be the intention and the practice of the commissioners; and interested persons should be given every opportunity to present their views, or to amend or criticise the findings of the commission. As Professor Emery, Chairman of the American Tariff Commission, put it, "we hope to maintain a perfectly open mind, and always to be able to recognize facts. Facts are what we are after, and the only influence that can be brought to bear on us is the influence of facts." There can be no good reason for opposition to this examination other than matters of private importance might thus be made public. Naturally a guarantee of secrecy, strict and perpetual, would be rightly asked for and given. The information obtained by examination of the books of a company, or in conversation or correspondence with its officers, would

be confidential, and for reference or for use in statistics could be referred to or classified under a number.

For if the investigations of the Board are to be worth while and a safe guide for legislation, the information obtained must be accurate. A most thorough and efficient system of cost accounting must be evolved. The confidence of manufacturers must be gained. It must be recognized that the commissioners are working along scientific lines, intent on providing a sound basis of fact for legislation of the utmost importance to the nation, now and for all time. No manufacturer can afford, either knowingly or in error, to give incorrect information, for to do so will surely bring its own nemesis of a tariff still insufficient, still requiring amendment. The Government can not be properly guided in its attempt to arrive at the percentages to be levied on imports unless it knows certainly and accurately the cost of production of the articles in the tariff which it undertakes to tax. Nor can the Government assume any responsibility in this matter that rightly falls upon the manufacturer.

To determine the "cost of production" will be perhaps the most difficult task before the commission. Cost accounting is not easy under any conditions; it is so difficult that in certain industries it is next to impossible to arrive at the exact cost of turning out the finished article. The American tariff board has been constantly met by the question, "What do you mean by cost of production? Exactly what items are to be included? According to what definite principle are all general items to be pro-rated for a given product?" And so a scheme of cost accounting had to be laboriously worked out, that would conform to a uniform plan and still be adaptable to various industries. That is to say, in other words, that as the commission could not rely on manufacturers to give exact information of the cost of production, where each might interpret the phrase in his own way, it had to determine for itself what information would be necessary to a correct result. It is no small tribute to the system in operation by the American Commission, when its chairman can say that as compared with the system followed in progressive plants, it has been a success. By cost accounting, it will be possible to compare the cost of production of many mills, and so to arrive at a fair estimate of tariff requirements. Naturally it will be easier to fix the cost of turning iron into car wheels or pulp wood into news print-paper than of producing certain fancy textile fabrics, though an approximation of cost may be arrived at sufficiently accurate for the end in view. It is not meant that facts should be secured in or-

(Continued on page 17.)

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Respect and Understanding Must Be Sown

(By Ethel Leonore Gnaedinger.)

THE chief mission of the British Ambassador to Washington, we are told, is "to see a speedy development of mutual respect and understanding between the British and American peoples."

The mutual respect and understanding of all peoples was the attainment which idealists and visionaries hoped for, as well as the rank and file of earnest beings, almost as an automatic result of the terrible tragedy of the Great War. This, at least, we thought we would have: mutual respect and understanding.

Instead of having reached our desideratum, no one can justly deny that we are emphatically further away from it than ever. It is, indeed, a sorry commentary on the "war that was to end war", that the British Ambassador to the United States avows as his principal object, the development of mutual respect and understanding between the two great English-speaking races. One had dared to believe that the day for such colossal blunders as serious national misunderstandings between peoples of the same ancestry was a thing of the dark past. But this belief has been destroyed, and we still find it necessary for men like Sir Auckland Geddes to police

the simple courtesies of respect and understanding.

If this is part of "the logic of events" that must be accepted, what can we think of the stupendous failure of individuals of the same community to have established between themselves a decent workable basis of mutual consideration, from which to commence a synthetic process of

ethical horizons both before and after great wars, who had the rare vision of "seeing things whole", and not in piecemeal patches of either humanity or territory. These latter people knew with a deadly certainty that neither they nor any others were going back to undisturbed couches. They knew, and were ready to face the fact, that their fevered dreams for the emancipation of humanity were going to be tortured dreams for many years, — and, perhaps, for their entire length of days.

In both groups were many who had neither respect nor understanding for any but themselves. The

awake to realize that from mass suffering, mass sacrifice, and mass servitude to the cause of the Great War, there would be a mass demand for mutual respect and understanding after the event.

To men and women with the least imagination, with perhaps the least sense of humor, or with any humanitarian desire for social justice, the recognition of this need, or demand, would have been a foregone conclusion, — a matter even for the fine flower of obligation.

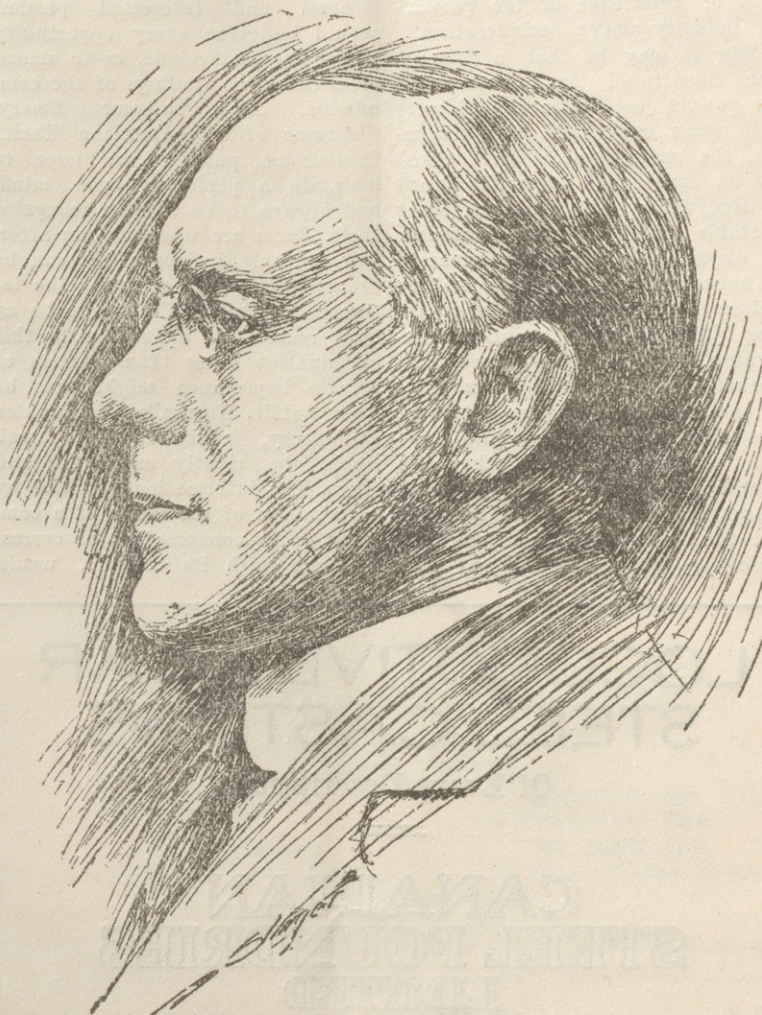
It would be folly to evade the point. The flower failed to strike its roots into the human mind, — or if it did, they perished there. Who knows if the child of Reason with its withering blasts may have frozen the tender thing that had fallen into the minds of men, and killed its power to germinate. Plants do not grow backwards with any degree of comfort or success; and if there remain, in however small a number of the human race, the light and loveliness of the bloom we call mutual respect and understanding, it has got to reach outwards with its flower, to be warmed by the all-pervading rays of the sun of sympathy that is to rise in the new dawn.

Rank growths and smug comfort have been trampled on the field of sacrifice as an offering for the sins of the world. It is true that many of these noxious weeds have escaped the penitential tread of men; but let it be understood, that no seed of this family can avoid the painful process of selection. There will be many rejections. From the seeds that are preserved must arise a spiritual Tree of Life, free from the earthly blight of Grab and Grasp and the devil catch the hindmost in the morass of Toil.

A very great deal of the terror and unrest at the hearts of men, — terror that haunts the dreams and stalks the days — comes from an unwillingness to understand, or even listen to both sides of a case. There are an appalling number of men and women who sit in high places who know little of the truth, and who stiffen at the mere suggestion or presentation of it. There are an equally great number of those who have never been trained to think or understand, who would not know the truth if they saw it. For these, indeed, the outlook is dismal enough. Of both classes one wonders sometimes if the typhoon that is rushing through world spaces will not sweep them "like chaff before the wind."

To save the situation "mutual respect and understanding" must be sown throughout the land, — the underbrush of arrogance, determined resistance, dull stupidity and ignorant reaction must be torn up and forever destroyed. Over the scent-ed field the stars of Justice and Duty must keep patient watch. And from this sowing will arise the gracious first fruits of sympathetic understanding.

Counsels of "peaceful penetration" find short shrift in these days. To hasten slowly requires



SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES

—Christian Science Monitor.

unification and pressing forward, instead of diversity and tearing apart?

While the war was in progress there were two main bodies of thought. There were the unhistoric, purblind beings of little imagination, who believed that we simply had to beat the Germans for humanity to tumble back in a consolidated heap into the same easy and uneasy bed, as the case had been. Those who had been comfortable did not want to be disturbed from their well-regulated sleep, and they hoped, if they thought at all about it, that those whose sleep had not been quite so easy would "get to work" and forget about the ruts in their straw pallets. There were the others who knew something of national and pol-

worst types of this high-handed and discourteous and unceremonious attitude would seem to have been found among those whose rest was easy. One uses the word "worst", because from those who have easy rest and easy days, — from those whom Fate has protected and equipped with the facilities for knowledge and educated view points, — the best is justly to be expected. From other groups, still, that tossed together on ill-smelling straw in airless hovels, it was not wise to look for the purified concepts that spring from clean sheets and safe-guarded thinking!

The unforgivable stupidity of the sound sleepers of the first group was that they were never sufficiently

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Now It Can Be Told

(Ottawa Citizen.)

greatness in our age, — yet it may be that this is the only real haste there is. The supreme need is for men and women who are willing to search for the truth, — not the truth as they would have it, but the truth as it is. They must have the fearlessness to acknowledge it when they recognize it. The truth is often painful, — could it ever be half as poignant as the hypocrisies and falsities, the pseudo-verities, that masquerade as truths and bring down upon their votaries the clattering stones of wrecked civilizations?

In point of magnitude, perhaps the failure of women to conduct their relations with one another especially, upon a basis of respect and understanding, is ever greater than the failure of men. We need not go into the reasons for this. They are many. The involved questions of sex, domestic and political economy, race, history and a general aggregation of facts. But it remains, that women can be, and often are, utterly without mercy. Men are not the Saviours of the race. Women are. Women must perpetuate the grace of respect for every human soul, of understanding for every human frailty, — every human need. Show me your women and I will describe your men. Ignorant women produce men who are ignorant. Women of vision may not produce men of vision, . . . but they will penetrate the darkness of men and awaken them to the glories of the light.

One of the greatest menaces to the solution of the world's "imposse" is the tardiness of respect and understanding. There is a great Idea abroad. An idea is never killed by refusing it consideration and comprehension. Neither do you kill it by butchering bodies. Either of these measures only serves to revitalize the Idea.

Let women, in particular, study the Idea that has come to its fruition from the growing pains of the past six years. Let them study it impartially, bringing to bear upon it the great strength of their idealism. Let them examine the Idea and hold it up to the light of the peaceful stars of Justice and Duty. If there be a canker let them cut it out, and build up the body with proper food. Let them impart the healing truth of the perfected Idea to the generations that cluster about the mother knee in search of guidance. And as in the days of the Great Physician, when the divine touch quickened the palsied frame, we may look for the dawn of a day when all men will "Arise and walk".

One of the most impressive books of the great war is that just published by the famous correspondent, Philip Gibbs, and entitled "Now It Can Be Told." It is a book that will make many enemies for the writer, for it is a frank disclosure of the inside of the struggle which the correspondents were not allowed to tell during the progress of the conflict. It is a fearful arraignment of war as a means of settling international disputes and one cannot read its descriptions of the actual scenes before and after a battle without a sincere prayer that the world will be spared horrors of the kind in the future.

In his vivid account, Gibbs has not spared anyone. He tells of the incompetent generals, the indifferent staff, the plans that went wrong, the men uselessly sacrificed, the wrong tactics, the false propaganda. He relates the fearful errors of the early days of the war, and the stupidity that perpetuated many of these to the very end. And he points out that the politicians and the diplomats are returning to the dirty corner games that brought on the conflict. Gibbs finds it hard to write with charity of G.H.Q. He says:

"It seemed at a mere glance that all these military inhabitants of G. H. Q. were great and glorious soldiers. Some of the youngest of them had a row of decorations from Montenegro, Serbia, Italy, Rumania and other states as recognition of gallant service in translating German letters (found in dug-outs by fighting men) or arranging for visits of po-

litical personages to back areas of war."

The great dinners, the gay uniforms, the leisured ceremony, laughter and music seemed far remote from war, as remote as were the comfortable billets of G.H.Q. from the squalor of men, lice-covered, dying in mud. And the writer tells of the men whose nerve failed them at the wrong time and who were condemned to death. There is the story of the young man who retreated and was sentenced:

"Before going out at dawn to face the firing squad he was calm. There was a lighted candle on the table, and he sorted out his personal belongings and made small packages of them as keepsakes for his family and friends. His hands did not tremble. When his time came he put out the candle between thumb and finger, raised his hand and said: 'Right-o!'"

The battlefields are described in a way that makes the reader wonder how such things can be possible in our civilization. Says Gibbs:

"There are no drums, no flags, but bodies and bits or bodies, and clots of blood and green metallic looking slime, made by explosive gases floating on the surface of water below the crater banks. Our men lived there and died there within a few yards of the enemy crouched below the sandbags and burrowed in the sides of the crater. Lice crawled over them in legions. Human flesh, rotting and sinking, mere pulp, was pasted into the sandbags. If they dug to get deeper cover, their shovels went into the softness

of dead bodies who had been their comrades. Scraps of flesh, booted legs, blackened hands, eyeless heads, came falling over them when the enemy trench-mortared their position or blow up a new mine shaft."

Not all of the book is composed of such descriptions. There are chapters of heroism, of the comradeship of men, of the great moments when souls are bared. But of war itself there is nothing but condemnation in language rarely surpassed in any account of battle strife. Gibbs thinks there was hardly a general with any claim to genius in the European conflict. Foch he expects, because Foch did the trick twice. Nor does he believe that war is a science. Experience has taught him that it is a mass of blunders. He thinks it will be hard to look back on the war without feelings of despair, unless its fearful lessons are taken to heart by the nations. With Nurse Cavell, Gibbs does not think that patriotism is sufficient in itself and he makes a great appeal to humanity and the world to ponder the lessons of the conflict. He concludes:

"Let us seek the beauty of life and God's truth somehow, remembering the boys who died too soon, and all the falsity and hatred of these past five years. By blood and passion there will be no healing. We have seen too much blood. We want to wipe it out of our eyes and souls. Let us have Peace."

Gibbs' book is not pacifist propaganda. It is a courageous expose of the war, its methods, incidents and results, and comprises only facts experienced by the writer. The author saw the war from beginning to end; he saw hundreds of thousands of young men, strong, careless and inspired, marching into the battle areas, and he saw them coming out again—blinded, gassed, half alive and torn by shot and shell. And he grew sick with the horror of it all and its never-ending monotony. Months ago he resolved one day to tell the truth about war and his book is the result of that resolution. It is a volume that should be in the hands of everyone who is not a jingo, for it is one of the few books that strip the false glamour from the business of human slaughter.

—:o:—

Unless the gentlemen who are going to wear overalls for the first time wear them until they require patching the campaign will not be beneficial, declares James Murdock, Labor Commissioner on the Board of Commerce. Otherwise it will simply increase the price of overalls to the workingman.

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WEEKLY

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Turned Down again

THE British National Union of Journalists has refused to reconsider the question of sending delegates to the Empire Press Conference in Canada this summer. Some time ago it declined the invitation to send delegates on the ground that fellow-unionists in Canadian journalism had been ignored and that the conference was to be one of publishers and their first lieutenants rather than of working journalists.

An effort was then made by the conference organizers to have the National Union reverse its decision, even to the extent of offering to pay all the expenses of the delegates, but, as stated, the union has refused to reopen the subject. Therefore, the largest and most important organization of journalists in the British Empire (or in the world, for that matter) will not be represented at the Empire Press Conference.

The lesson to the conference organizers is that it is impracticable to blow hot and cold with the trade union movement, whether it relates to journalists or other craftsmen. There is a brotherhood amongst unionists, even though the seas roll between, that no outside influence can ignore or offset with impunity. It is unfortunate that the Empire Press Conference should be thus limited in its scope, but the only persons to blame for that are the conference organizers.

K. C.

Unionism Saved the "Star"

ABOUT eighty-five printers employed by the Montreal Daily Star, who were "outlaw strikers" for a week, are back on their jobs at the terms offered by the Star prior to the strike. The hope of the strikers that the Star would have to cease publication was not fulfilled, the paper coming out regularly, although in disordered and smaller form. As the strike was a violation of the law of the International Typographical Union, of

which the strikers were members, and a repudiation of a contract entered into by the union with the Star, the force of the I. T. U. was brought to bear to put an end to the strike. The Star was produced in other offices by printers belonging to the same union.

The settlement is not a victory won by the Star, which had nothing to do with securing it. It was brought about exclusively by the trade union movement, in that the movement was able to secure the discipline and allegiance on which trade unionism is founded. Minus the protection and aid of trade unionism there would have been no Star, and it is well not to lose sight of that fact. The Star owed its very existence during the strike to the circumstance that the trade union movement got behind it in its crisis, not so much out of affection for the Star as out of affection for the principles of trade unionism itself. It is now up to Lord Atholstan, the head and front of the Star, to show in return that he is doing his best to study and ameliorate the conditions which led to the revolt of his printers. A contract is a contract, and law is law, but the humanities should be the governing influence of all human relations all the time.

K. C.

A "Typical Englishman"

THE London correspondent of the New York Times, whose cable despatches are syndicated daily to a number of Canadian and American papers, and thus obtain very large circulation, on April 27 put on the wires a half-column story of an aged proprietor of a London departmental store, one John Lewis, who flatly refused to recognize any "accursed trade union" of his girl shop assistants. Among the demands of the girls was one for a withdrawal of Lewis' ban on red-haired and auburn-haired assistants, and one for the granting of the right of the assistants to eat their meals off the premises, the store being one of those old-fashioned places where the abominable system of "living-in" is still in operation.

As Lewis would not listen to the representatives of the girls, the girls struck and are picketing the store. There is no doubt that they will win. Lewis talks of the "accursed trade unionists who live idle lives at the expense of the workers", and he is furnishing a good deal of amusement for the blase Londoner. But the New York Times correspondent describes Lewis as a "typical Englishman", which shows how little the correspondent knows of the typical Englishman. Lewis is a type of the apopleptic, Rip-Van-Winkle and Great-I-am English conservative fast dying out, fortunately, and regarded rather as a joke in these days; the days when he was regarded as an obstruction are already gone.

What a fine impression of modern Englishmen this Yankee correspondent is conveying to his hundreds of thousands of Canadian and American readers!

K. C.

One Of These Little Ones

STANDING out in the trial which has taken place at Quebec of the woman Gagnon, is the fact that a child may be deliberately maltreated and scores of neighbors and relatives may be cognizant of such treatment, yet they fail to draw attention to it. Is there no way of placing onus upon the public, when they know of certain facts, that they shall inform the competent authorities? In law an accessory to a crime is equally guilty with the actual culprit: yet in these cases of cruelty it frequently comes out that neighbors and others have seen what was going on and have failed to inform the police. All the testimony given in the Quebec case tends to show that there was a most reprehensible attitude of "It's none of my business" about all those who had anything to do with a poor little girl who was done to death. Not only individuals, but institutions, were guilty in this respect. It is a sorry thing if a child with bleeding limbs and body can be admitted into a public institution without any enquiry being raised as to how the injuries were caused. Doctors and nurses, priests and ministers, are admittedly under the penalty of discretion and silence in most matters, but when it comes to

(Continued on next page.)

C.P.R. AGENTS KEEN GARDENERS

System Has Over 500 Gardens—Big Horticultural Plans Laid

There are over five hundred gardens in the C.P.R. system tended voluntarily by the agents and section men who live on C.P.R. property. Competition for the usual prizes promises to be very keen this year as the employees have already requisitioned the company for 150,000 annual plants which will be laid down this spring.

After being advised by agricultural colleges and professional gardeners, the company has already made up a standard package of seeds which do not require hot housing, but can be put into the ground direct.

Twenty thousand perrenial plants will also be put down this season, 10,000 shrubs and 5,000 shade trees. These are for the beautification of station grounds and properties.

There are now thousands of acres of parks where there were formerly unsightly three cornered lots and dumping grounds. These parks in many cases were built by company employees without any aid.

The railway has now started a correspondence school in gardening for the benefit of those garden enthusiasts whose work of beautifying their surroundings has grown to such proportions. The correspondence is kept up for the benefit of those who are somewhat "green" in the gardening pursuit.

There are others also, particularly in the northwest, who are not conversant with the best seeds and plants for such climatic conditions.

A gardener from Sweden has been organizing the Western garden system for some years and his advice has met with excellent results.

The horticultural work planned this year is also on the ambitious scale. There are 100,000 trees to be planted for snow breaks and it will be seven years before the result is accomplished. There are also 16 miles of trees to be planted to keep the snow out of cuttings.

Grass seed as well as fertilizer and plant seeds are supplied free to the men who have made gardens on the company's property. The gardening department of the railway is said to be very popular with the rank and file.

—:—

Owners of the Slocan mine near Nelson, B.C., have decided to reject the One Big Union's demand of a dollar a day increase for miners "even if it means shutting down the properties". The present scale is \$5.50 a day for miners and \$5 for muckers, with 50 cents extra in each case in wet mines.

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The Butte Daily Bulletin, reputed organ of the I.W.W. miners, has been banned in Canada.

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(Continued from page 8.)

protecting life, particularly mute child life, most people will agree that they should not be too sensitive on this point.

The trial certainly confirms the need for a strong organization in this province for the care of child life, and it is to be hoped that the Society for the Protection of Women and Children, which has lately been re-organized and is now seeking financial support, will be thoroughly re-established by the public.

CAEDMON.

Dangerous Billy-Bally

UNDER the heading of "The Way Out", the Montreal Star of April 24 editorially supports the scientific tariff board in the following words:—

"Western and Eastern manufacturers, meeting at Toronto, agreed that a scientific solution of the tariff problem could be arrived at to the advantage of the whole country. Enthusiastic support was given to this proposal by Mayor Brown, of Medicine Hat, president of the Alberta Industrial Association.

"Sifted through the screen of scientific principles, the conflicting assertions of the various interests directly concerned in the tariff would be revealed to the public and the Government in exact terms. Tariff questions may be manipulated by demagogues only when obscured by lack of information.

"The people are the judges of Canada's tariff needs, and the judges cannot safely decide until all the evidence is in. Turning the scientific spot-light on the situation would show the way out of a tangled mass of tiresome issues."

When sixteen hundred labor organizations, important bodies of manufacturers, and leading newspapers get together behind the same sort of proposition, the only proposition on which they have ever got together, a government which dilly-dallies with the proposition is taking long chances with the interests of the people, not to speak of taking long chances with its own existence.

K. C.

Smiths' Falls Members of Association Met

A gathering of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association was held in Central school, Smiths' Falls, Ont., Friday evening, April 16th. A lively interest was taken in discussing questions of interest to the municipality.

The chairman, Mr. Gardiner, drew the attention of the members of the Association to the fact that the local hospitals were badly in need of an up-to-date X-ray machine, and asked that they take into consideration what means could be devised to secure at least one of these machines for the town.

The railway men present were especially interested on account of the extra hazard of their occupation. They felt that it would be a source of general satisfaction among their craft, if they knew that serious accident cases could have the benefit of a machine such as was spoken of.

The question was laid in obedience, to come up at some future date.

An effort will be made to have the president of the Association, Mr. J. A. Woodward, of Montreal, address a public meeting in the town hall, in the near future.

The members present wished to thank the Board of Education for the use of the school and wished to say that care would be taken not to misuse the property in any way.

—:—

G.T.R. EMPLOYEES AGREE ON DEMANDS BY FOUR UNIONS.

Grand Trunk Railway clerks, freight handlers, station and shop employees have united in their demand for increased wages and improved working conditions, according to a statement issued by their representatives on April 24. The committee representing the four unions involved, which was appointed on the suggestion of the Minister of Labor, has succeeded in arriving at a schedule of wages and working conditions satisfactory to all concerned. It remains for this schedule to be presented to the Grand Trunk Railway Company. This, it is stated, will be done at a meeting between the employees' representatives and representatives of the company on Monday, May 3.

The above-mentioned employees have been divided into several different organizations, the largest of which was the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees. This organization succeeded in obtaining the appointment of a board of conciliation to deal with the dispute between the employees and company. Representatives of the other organizations came before the board and objected to the negotiation of a schedule which might affect their members. Finally, on the suggestion of the Minister, a joint committee was formed which has succeeded in arriving at a schedule which will apply to all the classes affected on the Grand Trunk.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

(From our own correspondent)

Glasgow, April 3.

The dispute, in which much public interest has arisen, on the King's Balmoral and Birdhall estates in regard to the hours of the employees, is not yet finished. Gardeners and laborers have been asked to work ten hours per day during the summer, the hours during the winter having been eight hours. The unskilled laborers refused to work more than an eight hours day, and made a demand for wages up to \$15 per week. The unskilled laborers receive \$2.50 per week more than the average paid in the district. Captain Ramsay, the King's Commissioner at Balmoral, who was absent at the time, owing to an accident, wired his representative at Balmoral to tell the men to work ten-hours day until his return, or to take a week's

notice. The matter was put by the men into the hands of the Discharged and Demobilized Soldiers' and Sailors' Association, who, in a statement to the press, averred that 90 per cent. of the men employed on the Royal estates, on Deeside, were ex-soldiers and sailors, many of whom are disabled. The Ex-soldiers' Association discussed the matter at a public meeting at Aberdeen, when the correspondence on the subject was read. As a result of the discussion, it was remitted to the Ballater Branch of the Association to make further inquiries, and continue negotiations for a settlement. Captain Ramsay, the King's Commissioner at Balmoral, has been summoned by the King to discuss the matter with His Majesty, at Buckingham Palace.

Socialists' Ultimatum.

A kind of Soviet has been proclaimed at Dumfries, in connection with the unemployment question, and an ultimatum has been sent to the Town Council, by Mr. Will Gray, a Socialist, on behalf of the 400 men out of work. At a meeting with the Magistrates, Mr. Gray threatened that unless by Monday the Council formulated a plan whereby the unemployed would be absorbed in useful constructive work, the committee of unemployed would adopt measures themselves. A committee of the unemployed, termed the Social Committee, was appointed to discover any work in the town which could be undertaken if the Council fails to formulate a scheme.

Gas Saving.

How \$5,000,000 might be saved to the gas consumers of Glasgow was explained by Mr. George Helps, gas manager, Nuneaton, to the Scottish Junior Gas Association, in Glasgow, this week. Mr. Helps contended that gasworks today are not really gaswork but chemical works, as only one half of the coal consumed was used in gas-making. He advocated a more extensive gassification of coal. Under existing conditions, 1,000 tons of coal were turned into a gaswork to produce 6,000,000 heat cubits, and 500 tons of coal were sent out of the gasworks in the form of coke. To produce 6,000,000 heat cubits, by another suggested process, only 300 tons need be utilised. Today, Glasgow's gas cost nearly \$8,000,000, whereas it need cost only \$3,000,000. Mr. Helps predicted a day when gas would not be



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passed through meters, but would be supplied to consumers on the same principle as water.

Glasgow, April 10.

Labor has come to Scotland, this week, and Glasgow has been the meeting place of several important conferences, the most important of which was the Independent Labor Party, the largest hall in the city being required to house all the delegates. The meetings marked the beginning of a new stage in the evolution of the party and in its relationship, both to the political Labor Party as a whole, and to the industrial movement. The echoes of the war controversies are dying away, but the

new approach to political and economics is inevitably influenced by the events and convulsions caused by the war. New controversies are taking the place of the old, and at the moment, their tendency is towards disintegration, rather than towards the growth of a stronger and more united party. Great efforts will, of course, be made to keep the party intact, and the discussions should reveal the actual state of feeling much more clearly than it could be seen at the opening of the conference. Whatever compromise on policy may be reached, however, it is certain that sharp divisions of opinion will remain, as in the case of the French Socialist Party.

The cause of controversy is pretty much the same in both countries but the relative strength of the contending sections is not the same. The main question at issue is whether the policy of the party shall continue on the old lines of parliamentary activity, whether that policy shall be modified in the light of the experiences of Sovietism, on the one hand, and of the growth of the industrial unionism idea, on the other, or whether the policy shall be entirely transformed by an unqualified declaration for Sovietism. A determined effort is to be made by a group of branches, in various parts of the kingdom, to bring about this transformation, and to replace the executive council. Some of the most prominent leaders, including Mr. Philip Snowden and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, are opposing wholesale changes, and there is the middle school, represented by Mr. Clifford Allen, which advocates a careful reconsideration of policy in the light of new political and industrial ideas.

James Gibson.

:o:

FAILED TO GET BENEFIT

"Workers on this continent have so far failed to reap the benefits of industrial hygiene to the extent these benefits have accrued to the workers in England and the continent," declared Dr. J. W. S. McCullough, chief officer of health for Ontario, last week, at the convention of the National Safety League. "Some assistance has come through the efforts of organized labor, which has extended a good influence in limiting the avarice of the employer in shortening the hours of labor, in increasing wages, and the improving of sanitary conditions, but much remains to be done."

:o:

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Education and Production

By Professor J. A. DALE, McGill University.

In the universal agitation which is going on about after-war problems, the association of these terms is a healthy sign. With our sharp experience of shortage, with our great problems of industrial re-adjustment and the national debt, we are being forced to think more deeply. We braced ourselves, and planned and co-operated for war; we must do it for peace. There is profound truth in the metaphor "mobilization for peace." The main issues of the war

were clear and commanded general agreement. But the issues on which our future prosperity depend are far less clear — they involve the conflict of all sorts of vested interests; they are less understood and more disagreed about. It is good that in the chaos of discussion about "re-construction" so many people are turning to education. As a striking example, England has found time, in all the desperate pre-occupations of war, to pass a radical measure of national education.

Production and Conservation are among our modern watchwords. We need to realize that they are at the very root of all sound educational theory and practice. There is urgent need to translate them from words into practice. This can only be done when we know what the words really mean; for even the best of slogans are too apt to become substitutes for thinking, and, as such, very insecure guides for policy.

Long before controllers were appointed to regulate our consumption, farsighted men were urging us to take better care of our resources. They have urged us to produce more, and more wisely. They told us that our resources are not as the thoughtless say, unlimited; though our heritage is rich, it must be husbanded. Too much has been wasted, and too much carelessly developed; owing to its very richness and the ease with which it has come. This is as true of our people—our immigrants, our children — as of our lumber, our fish, or any other natural product. For it is only the hardest and most literal fact, that men and women are the final and decisive product, and their character and welfare the final and decisive test, of any community.

Such statements would be generally accepted at any time, without any very noticeable result. But these are no longer easy-going times. We have been brought sharply face to face with a foe whose success and failure throw light upon the sources of our strength and weakness. His deadliness is partly due to his thorough training in ways which our own freer, more individualistic conditions have led us to neglect; partly to the fatal defect in the aims by which his civilization stands revealed and condemned. We say again and again that this is a war of ideals. Now is the time to make them real — in the strictest sense of the word—by putting them into practice. In nothing is this more important than in education; whether in its general sense of the preparation for good and effective citizenship, or in the special form called technical, which is designed to meet the needs of industry.

Education gets its full share of lip-service, as do other noble words which cover high ideals and mighty processes only dimly understood. We hear that "the future of Canada

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is in the hands of the school teachers." But do most of those who say it really believe it? We must not be content with so easy a shift of responsibility. The teachers themselves are in the hands of systems which are the product of those very conditions, social and economic, whose betterment is the object of the much discussed "re-construction." Again, educational talk is largely carried on in symbolic language, which a very little thought shows to be empty of meaning — we vary from a childish trust to a childish distrust, not knowing just what we want from education, what we can expect, or how to get it. If we are right in regarding the production of good citizens as one of the chief industries, we must confess that we have not got the business into very good shape yet. We need a public opinion and a public sense of responsibility.

There are signs on all hands that this is coming. A striking instance is the Fisher Act in England already referred to. This has put into legislation recently some measure of the reforms demanded by a public opinion, largely the result of the work of the Workers' Educational Association for the past fifteen years. The association began in the ranks of organized labor. Attaching to itself the wisest of educationists, it created public opinion, directly affected the policy of local education authorities and universities, and finally of the

Government itself. I have no hesitation in saying that the association represented the most influential and well informed body of public opinion on educational matters in the country.

Many different interests are combining to focus attention on education. Employers of labor, social workers, labor men — all are being forced to consider from their own standpoint the products of education. Teachers and parents are thinking for themselves on the searching questions of what they want from education and how to get it. Contemporary fiction has few more significant features than its eager interest in education. Experimental schools in growing numbers are giving adventurous teachers the chance of testing new ways; while a large literature has grown up on the philosophy and methods of education. All these movements, in spite of differences and contradictions, are dominated by the desire to make education more real — more concerned with living issues, and answering better to the test of real life, and by the desire to be clearer about it, so as not to take the shadow for the substance. They are evidence of the fundamental democratic conviction, that the mind and character of all the children are the real resources of the nation, and that money spent in their wise development is the best of investments.

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Two Railway Brotherhoods Join A.F. of L.

President Samuel Gompers Makes
Announcement of Important Affiliation.

Two of the "Big Four" railway brotherhoods controlling the railway industry of the United States and Canada will affiliate with the American Federation of Labor at the meeting of executive council of the federation in May. This is announced by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, says the Trade Union News, of Philadelphia. They are the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, with a membership of 60,000, and the Brotherhood of Firemen and Enginemen, with a membership of 70,000. Mr. Gompers added that the other two of the "Big Four"—the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and the Order of Railway Conductors—undoubtedly would follow.

With the amalgamation of the railway brotherhoods and the American Federation of Labor there will arise the most powerful labor organization in the world with a total membership of 5,000,000.

These figures were given by Mr. Gompers:

"We now have about 4,500,000 members," said Mr. Gompers. "The brotherhoods will raise our membership to 5,000,000. Our goal then will be 6,000,000."

"Does this new movement," Mr. Gompers was asked, "foreshadow a stronger and more progressive policy?"

"I think it is a healthful evolution," said Mr. Gompers. "I believe the present solidarity in the ranks of labor is sound."

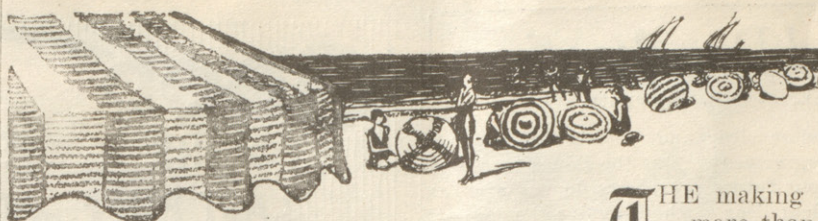
More than 2,000 locals and seventeen different railway organizations will enter the American Federation of Labor when the final amalgamation with all the four brotherhoods is completed. Mr. Gompers will thereby become ex-officio head of all the railway workers of the United States and will represent them in all controversies between the brotherhoods and the railway companies.

Persons close to the Labor movement regarding the forthcoming amalgamation as the most important event in the history of the movement in the last decade.

The "Big Four" and the federation were at odds for years.

More amicable relations between the A. of L. and the "Big Four" began to develop, however, in 1916.

Approaching affiliation of the "Big Four" railroad brotherhoods



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with the American Federation of Labor, by which the membership of the federation will be increased by 5,000 was foreshadowed as far back as 1916, when cordial relations between the two union forces developed as the result of the help extended by the federation of the brotherhoods in putting upon the statute books of the United States the Adamson eight-hour-day law. These amicable relations were strengthened in 1919, marked by the fight for government control of the railways and the failure of the President's original industrial conference.

The union was distinctly forecast in October, 1919, when, following the failure of the Wilson industrial conference, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor and the chiefs of the four railway brotherhoods issued a joint call for a conference of union leaders.

At that time it was said that "fundamental principles upon which organized labor may combat grave dangers affecting the very foundation of its structure" were to be discussed.

This conference, which convened December 13, promulgated "a bill of rights."

But while the session was distinctly aggressive as far as the things the unions represented stood for were concerned, it also took decisive action in resolution adopted against the I.W.W. and bolshevik elements both in and out of the American Federation of Labor.

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Shorter Hours and Higher Wages No Real Remedy, Says Tom Moore

"I might have been more popular if I had come to this meeting in overalls, but I think in connection with the movement that if those wearing them now had given more consideration to those forced to wear them, there might not be so much industrial unrest in the country," Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, made the foregoing statement, with reference to the "overall movement," when addressing about 100 members of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers on the labor situation of the world, at Ottawa, on April 25.

Mr. Moore emphasized the fact that the day was coming, through the formation of industrial councils, when strikes would not be conducted by the labor movement to obtain better hours or more wages, but in order to prevent manufacturers and employers from charging exorbitant prices for commodities.

Granting workers increased wages was but a joke, and no remedy for the situation, because the few cents they were granted were taken from them again by the increased cost of

living. "Wages during recent years have been increased to the workers, through the efforts of their organization, or else owing to the desire of the employers to keep under cover their high rate of profits. It is high time the labor classes all over the world organized and asked themselves the question: 'Are higher wages and less working hours the remedy for our condition?' The answer would be 'No,' because every few cents which the employers grant the workers are immediately eaten up by the increased cost of commodities, whose price is boosted in order to give the workers the wages.

"There is a great change spreading all over the world amongst the workers. They are not satisfied now with the question of hours and wages, but want to be shown where the big profits accruing from their labor are going.

"It must be understood that the raising of wages and lessening of working hours is not the whole secret of raising the standard of living for the laboring classes."

He stated that there was no need of labor being in a despondent mood today. Optimism and energetic organization must be the keynote of its operation.

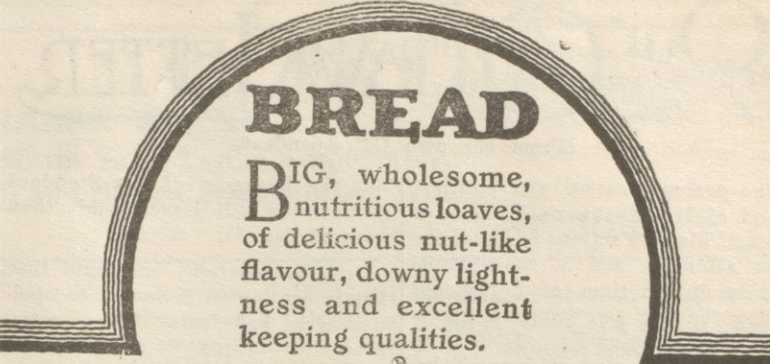
He spoke of the international conference of labor which took place at Paris, and said that, while the politicians had found a legal loophole through which they could escape, granting the demands of world labor, they were morally bound in the United States to carry out the terms of the peace treaty.

"The international labor conference is simply a world parliament of labor," said Mr. Moore, "and it is of vital importance to the workers of every country, who must stand behind it."

He belittled the waste of time in the House of Commons over the eight-hour day discussion, which, he said, after all, was in the hands of the politician-employers and those favorable to them.

"It must be shown to the country at large that the eight-hour day demand of labor is not an epidemic, and that labor is sincere in seeking to have it enacted. We have one million industrial workers in this Dominion. It is up to them to show the other eight million people that what we are seeking is fair, just and considerate treatment.

"There is too much manipulating in the money-changing to suit the workers of this country. They are



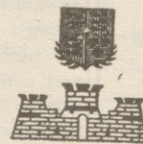
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ready to answer the cry for more production, but they also want to know where the profits accruing from this production go to."

Mr. Moore emphatically denied a despatch from Winnipeg, which had quoted him as saying the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress was opposed to political action.

"What I did say," said Mr. Moore, "was that it was not a political organization but that the necessity had been realized of labor being in politics and had assisted in building up the political labor movement."

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Our OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own Correspondent)

The personal career and political record of Mr. Mackenzie King have through his own actions occupied the keen attention and a considerable portion of the time of Parliament during the past ten days, and therefore some examination of them as revealed by his own evidence is befitting. Some weeks ago two members of a Progressive Club in Montreal made speeches which the Gazette and Star reported, in which they charged Mr. King with failing in his duty as a loyal Canadian in the war by leaving the country and entering the employ of the Rockefeller Foundation, and insinuated

that the interests of the Standard Oil Co. were still dearer to him than those of Canada.

Lord Beaconsfield once said that that in dealing with women and politicians he had found it very satisfactory to adhere to a fixed rule "Never complain; and never explain." Mr. King evidently does not believe in it. There was some even among his own supporters and friends who questioned the wisdom of his judgment, but when the House went into Supply on Tuesday the 20th he availed himself of the time-honored privilege of making explanation of his personal record during the war and refuting the charges of his calumniators. He spoke for over an hour, and he spoke very well, though it was obvious that he felt his position keenly. He was clear and concise and not in the slightest degree bombastic. Some critics might consider it in better taste to have left to friendly hands the peroration in which he touched upon intimate family affairs. It is a sound maxim for public men to refer to them as little as possible.

Mr. King's case summed up was that when war broke out he was a man of 40 with very heavy domestic responsibilities which were aggravated by a series of tragic bereavements, that he had previously undertaken work to investigate industrial relations for the Rockefeller Foundation which is something quite distinct from the Standard Oil Co., being a purely philanthropic institution, and resolved to continue it, that he had never given up his home in Ottawa and had written all his book "Industry and Humanity" there, that his work had enabled him to settle industrial disputes in many American munition plants and thereby make an effective contribution to the Allied cause, a claim which he substantiated by letters from numerous captains of industry; finally he categorically refuted the idea that he had at present any business or commercial affiliation which would prevent giving disinterested service to the people of Canada.

The House listened to Mr. King with great courtesy and rapt attention and when he had finished there was even some applause from the Coalition benches. His defence was, as it has always been to all who knew the facts, perfectly satis-

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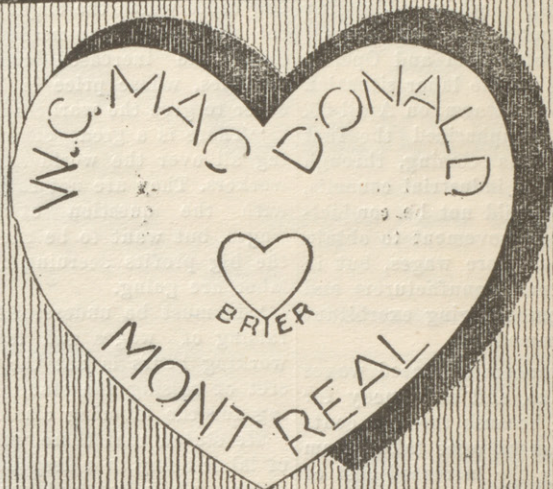
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factory to all reasonable and fair-minded people, and if, as is likely, he encounters similar attacks from the meaner snipers of the political world, he would be well advised to disregard them. On the whole he emerged from a difficult ordeal with credit.

On Monday April 19th Dr. Edwards of Frontenac introduced a re-

solution calling for the establishment of a Federal Bureau of Education. Such a move on his part is usually a base of operations for baiting Quebec, but on this occasion he made a very moderate speech and received some backing from Mr. Macie and Dr. Anderson. But Mr. Lapointe and Dr. Béland both resisted the proposal on the ground that it

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was an undue interference with the rights of the provinces to control their own education and a violation of the pact of Confederation. Dr. Béland would have been sympathetic to a bureau which merely collected statistics. Sir George Foster welcomed the discussion but asked Dr. Edwards to withdraw his motion, which was done.

Tuesday, after Mr. King had made his explanatory statement, was devoted to the estimates of the Parliament Buildings. Over \$7,000,000 has already been spent and the final cost will not be less than ten million dollars. Mr. Stevens, Dr. Clark and others criticized the acoustics of the Commons and asked for immediate

remedies to be applied. Mr. McMaster complained of general extravagance in the construction, thought marble floors unnecessary luxuries, and besought the committee in charge to refrain from spending, as he understood was contemplated, \$180 apiece for members' desks and \$40 for waste paper baskets. Mr. McCrea thought the workmen in many cases were idling on their job and Mr. Bureau protested against the gargoyles as being a hideous travesty of the features of many illustrious statesmen, but Dr. Reid confessed he had never studied them. The evening was given up to the furtherance of the Grand Trunk Bill.

On Wednesday Mr. Guthrie announced the names of a Committee to report on memorials to be erected on the battlefields of the Great War to commemorate the heroism of the Canadian troops. The members are General Mewburn, Messrs. Clark, Lemieux, Béland, McCurdy, Peck, Mowat, Power and Blake, but it seemed a little ungracious to omit the name of Sir Sam Hughes, who has now taken his seat for the first time this session, somewhat shaken by his illness. Mr. Pedlow tried to block the third reading of Mr. Rowell's Food and Drugs' Act but was foiled by 100 to 57. Then Sir George Foster brought in a bill, withdrawn last year, to set a permanent purchasing board for the country. Mr. Rowell had charge of this bill last year, but it was now thought wise to entrust it to a more popular figure.

However, though some of the objectors of last year had been whipped into line, others were obdurate and Mr. Best, Mr. Cockshutt and other tried Conservatives expressed their determined hostility to it. Mr. Fielding was critical because the railway and marine departments were to be kept without its scope. Sir George Foster did his best, but the bill will have a difficult passage, as the Coalition members do not like the destruction of the last vestiges of patronage. Another evening was consumed with the Grand Trunk, which occupied a large part of Friday, when it was at last despatched.

The rest of Thursday and Friday was practically all devoted to consideration in Committee of the Franchise Act, where disputed ground had now been reached. The questions at issue were the appointment of electoral officers and their assistants and the boundaries of polling divisions, and there was much resurrection of bygone electoral history and personal reminiscences of the perfidy and virtue of both parties as it had occurred to the various orators' observation.

The Government is very anxious to retain the appointment of returning officers in its own hands, an advantage which Mr. Calder will know how to make use of, but Mr. Fielding moved a very proper amendment to Clause 2 seeking to secure that the returning officer shall be a person holding one of the following public offices: sheriff, registrar of deeds, chief clerk of the municipality, city or incorporated town or the secretary treasurer, postmaster or collector of customs of the same places. This would ensure that the returning officers would represent all shades of political opinion. Nu-

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merous members have spoken for and against the amendment and it will eventually be voted down. Mr. Guthrie has announced the text of the amendments which are to remedy the injustices imposed by clause 29. On Friday evening Mr. Ballantyne, taking advantage of the timely absence of his most effective critic, Mr. Duff, tried to make some progress with the estimates of his department and Mr. Rowell who is strong on opium and drugs moved a second reading of a bill to regulate their sale. Sir George Foster last week announced that the Budget would be brought down before the end of the month, but there is some doubt whether this is possible.

J. A. Stevenson.

:0:

There is much idleness in Hamilton as a result of the Steel Company of Canada having closed down half their plant for lack of coal.

Conciliation through a board appointed by the Department of Labor will be tried in the deadlock between Winnipeg Electric Railway Company and its employees.

Hamilton branch of the Independent Labor Party passed a resolution opposing the proposed referendum on the importation of liquor into Ontario.

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Tariff Commission

(Continued from page 5.)

der to determine the average cost of production, though that information will have its uses, but that the facts which affect cost conditions should be sought for and analyzed; so that in some useful practical sense it may be learned why the cost of production of a given article is greater or less in June than in January, in Quebec than in Manitoba, in Canada than in the United States.

Now it is obvious that to make the proposed investigation comparative and complete, a study of similar conditions and facts in foreign countries must be made. For until the cost of production of a competing article in England or Germany is known, information as to the cost in Canada, while useful, will not be enough upon which to enact a tariff which will be fair to both the Canadian manufacturer and the Canadian consumer, and which will not need revision after a brief delay. The tariff is at present, and has always been, largely a matter of experiment. What we want is a tariff which will mean this,—namely, that indubitably the German manufacturer cannot produce a given fabric under fifty cents a yard; indubitably the Canadian manufacturer cannot produce it under seventy cents a yard; indubitably, therefore, unless, and until, some real economic change takes place either here or in Germany, a percentage may be fixed which will protect and encourage the local industry and place it on a fair footing for competition. This information will not be had frequently for the mere asking. Foreign manufacturers will not as a rule lay before the inquirer their plan of the game without at least the exercise of some tact and patience on his part. A great deal can nevertheless be gleaned from blue books and statistics, from studies of economic problems and from independent investigations; some manufacturers will be found, as the American Board has already found them, prepared to give the required information; while an increasingly accurate and extensive knowledge of wage and labor conditions and of the cost and value of raw material will be of the utmost importance in getting out working estimates of cost of production. In any event, time will bring its changes and will cause to disappear suspicion and misunderstanding. If the constant courtesy of the American Tariff Commission and the Government Printing Office—Washington be any criterion, it will not be a difficult matter to arrange an interchange of reports between the tariff commission of progressive and friendly countries, with what interesting and valuable results anyone can see for himself.

It may be objected, as we have previously suggested, that the Board cannot secure the information which we have mentioned by the means already outlined; that business men may refuse assistance, may even attempt to color the information they give. The American Board has as yet found this unnecessary, and indeed has no coercive authority. The National Tariff Commission Association recently investigated the whole work and scope of the Board, and embodied the following statement in its report which for its interest I quote verbatim, viz.—

"The Tariff Board at present has no power to compel the giving of testimony, and thus far has found no need for such authority. The manufacturers who have been approached thus far have given the board, voluntarily, free access to their books and records and cordial co-operation in ascertaining and verifying all facts pertinent to the inquiry in hand. Tenders of similar co-operation from producers in other lines are being received

"with every indication that the experience above referred to will be repeated with each new industry as it is taken up. These facts are a credit to American manufacturers and justify the belief that they do not shun investigations of this kind, that they ask no unfair favors, and that they desire that future tariff schedules shall be framed with knowledge of all the facts and with fair regard for the interests of all the people.

"While the board thus far has found no need for coercive power in the procurement of evidence, we regard it as desirable that the board should have conferred upon it the qualified power in this respect contemplated in the bill making permanent the organization of the board which was favourably considered by each the House of the last Congress."

The Canadian Bill has been drafted with this recommendation in view, and provides that "The commissioners shall have the same power to enforce the attendance of

witnesses, and to compel them to give evidence, as is vested in any Court of record in civil cases."

False information and misleading statements cannot long go undetected—the increasing experience of the investigators and the obviously correct statements of honest witnesses, would make detection easy. And the position of the dishonest witness in the public view would not be an encouragement of the attitude. It will not be going too far to assert that tariff protected interests received the benefit of protection as a benefit and favour by the will of the people, and should receive it upon showing the necessity for it,—and then only. The necessity for fair protection can be demonstrated only by a show down of the facts as they really are. In the last analysis of the matter, the Government wishes to apply to the business of tariff making the same careful study of cost and cost conditions, and of economic phenomena, that the most enterprising of our business men apply to their undertakings when they wish to estimate the margin of profit to be expected therefrom. It is acting in the public interest; it demands the co-operation of the public.

It may be asked whether all this fact-hunting is necessary, and whether in the end it will be worth while. Senator La Follette, during the debate on the Aldrich Bill, in the summer of 1909, said a very wise and very sane thing, in answer to a similar question. He said: "This Bill will bear upon the people of this country—ninety millions of them—either fairly or unfairly, justly or unjustly. I tell you it is of tremendous consequence what we do here each day. We pass a paragraph, or a schedule, and... we do not know how much it is going to take out of the earnings or savings of this family or that family, and we ought to know." And there is good reason to believe that the manufacturers of Canada would be first to declare the righteousness of that dictum. They wish to live and let live; and can progress only so long as they are willing to confer benefits and consideration equal to those they require and receive from the community at large. In that sense, then, with an expert knowledge of all the facts in issue, the Tariff Board can act as an impartial umpire between producer and consumer.

(To be continued.)

—o:—

Teachers are leaving for other employment in such large numbers that the Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick has addressed the Legislature, urging larger salaries.

—so:—

Ten cents an hour increase has been granted ship carpenters in Montreal, making 65 cents an hour day shift with time and a half for night shift and double time if called on to work Sundays or during meal hours.

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Big Questions for A.F. of L. Convention in Montreal

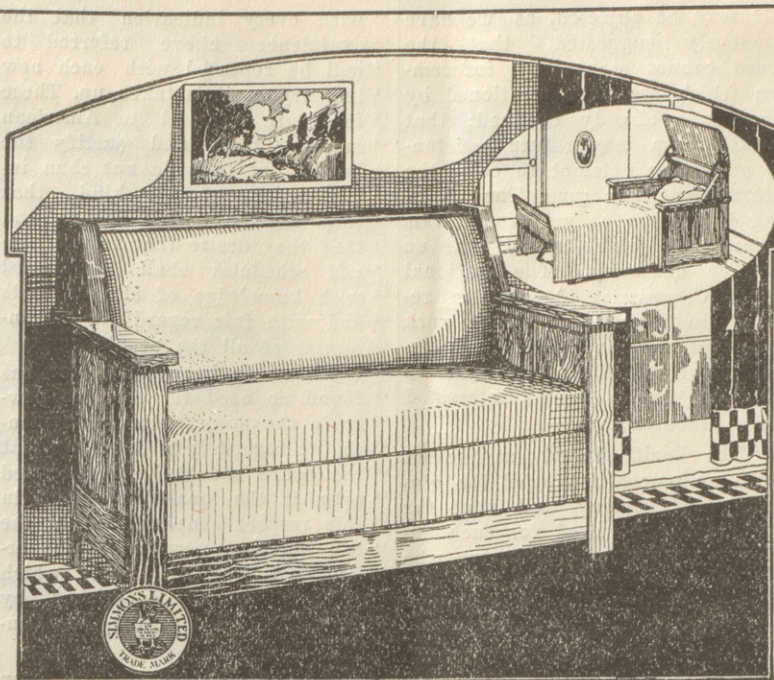
(By VICTORIEN BARRE)

WITHIN a few weeks the convention of the American Federation of Labor will assemble in Montreal. Many horny problems that have arisen as the result of out-of-gear conditions and involving vitally the progress and peace of many of America's greatest industries, are awaiting the deliberations of this International Labor Parliament. A question of moment which is certain to evoke an interesting debate is the anomalous position in which Canadian International unionists now find themselves as the result of the American Senate's failure to ratify the peace treaty. Canadian Labor, in considerable measure composed of International unionists, is a party to the peace treaty and to the Covenant of the League of Nations, so that the American Federation is being indirectly represented by its Canadian members in the International Labor Conference set up by the treaty. The same paradox existed when the International Labor Congress was held in Washington some months since; the American Federation, as such, had no voice in the assembly; yet Canadian members of the Federation sat and had voice in the deliberations. As the right of the British Dominions to representation in the Assembly of the League has lately been the cause of much animated, if not bitter, controversy, in the United States, and as both Canadian and American Labor are radically bound up in the question, the debate cannot fail to interest.

The present "outlaw" strike on the American railroads may prove the "piece of resistance" of the convention. The advocates of secession from the A. F. of L. have been jangling the cymbals lately in various parts of the United States and unauthorized strikes are becoming of troublesome frequency. The consideration of steps to be taken against these forms of rebellious effort will be one of the important problems of the delegates.

A further matter of prime importance which is expected to bring forth pointed words, if not acrimony, from some speakers, will be the non-partizan political policy to be pursued in the coming election struggle in the United States. There has been some outspoken criticism of this policy and the convention promises to be enlivened by a few ripples of pre-election strife.

A few echoes from what may be now considered past Labor history in the United States will probably come up when the Convention gets to the consideration of the coal and steel industries. The attitude taken by the Federation on the occasion of last winter's coal-mine troubles is likely to be dealt in detail. Some frank talking may result — for the memory of the Lever Law injunction will not fade quickly among the coal men. The smash-up of the strike following the acceptance of the United States Government's in-



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junction by the men's leaders, and the pronouncement of the A. F. of L., cannot fail but cause some criticism on the floor of the convention. A discussion of the attitude taken by the A. F. of L. in regard to the steel strike in the U.S. may also take its place on the boards.

According to J. T. Foster, president of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council, who will take a leading part in welcoming the delegates, there will be from 1,000 to 12,000 persons in attendance at the convention. The great majority of these will be actual accredited delegates from labor organizations all over America; the remainder will be executive staffs and others interested in Labor.

Representatives of the principal great divisions of American labor unions, including the mining, metal trades and building sections, will congregate in Montreal on or about the first of June. Organization meetings will be held in the Windsor Hotel and final details will be considered until June 7 when the convention will be formally opened.

On the opening day, the delegates will parade to the blare of music along the principal streets to the St. Denis Theatre. The work of the convention will then begin.

Speaking of the plans that are under consideration by the local Council, Mr. Foster declared that an effort will be made to have the Catholic and Protestant Bishops of Montreal open the Convention with prayer, as is the custom. If possible, the Premier or acting Premier of Canada will be present at the inaugural session, as well as provincial dignitaries who will welcome the delegates on behalf of the Province. The Mayor of Montreal will do the civic honors. The Minister of Labor Senator Robertson, will occupy a place of prominence, as will Tom Moore, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and other notable Canadian labor leaders.

Mr. Foster also stated that the Montreal Council and individual unions are at present arranging details of entertainments which will be tendered the delegates in order that the memory of their Montreal comrades shall be a worthy and lasting one. Auto tours around the mountain, boat excursions down the river, through the rapids and in the harbor, are among the many diversions that will be offered the delegates.

Ralph Connor, the novelist, will be appointed chairman of the Joint Council of Industry to be set up by the Manitoba Government. In private life he is the Rev. C. W. Gordon, and during the war he was an army chaplain.

The strike of Montreal Star printers ended by the men returning to work on the terms offered by the paper which guaranteed them an advance of from \$32 to \$36 for day and from \$35 to \$40 for night work. The Herald and Gazette also granted their compositors an increase.

Paying for the Social Whirl in Canada

(By an anonymous Canadian writer in the Dearborn Independent.)

How would the people of Michigan, or any other of the United States, relish a proposal that they should build a Government House costing something over a million dollars for the edifice and grounds, maintain it at an annual cost of some \$30,000 for housekeeping, and see it utilized for no other purpose than establishing the governor and his family in luxury, and enabling them to extend consonant hospitality to occasional travelling "notables," as well as to "society" located conveniently to the state's capital town? Wouldn't Michigan folk smile derisively, hoot down the proposal, and remark, in effect, that the governor might live in a boarding house for all they cared! Could he get from them any fund for other entertainments than he might give at his own private expense? Let him live on his salary as governor and on any private means he might possess! The mere notion that the public should pay for an institution for giving free feeds, dances, concerts, and so on, to that sort of society which excludes fully ninety per cent of taxpaying citizens would be a little too much for American tolerance.

There is no more constitutional or other reason why Ontario, or any Canadian Province, or the Dominion of Canada, should maintain a Government House than why Michigan should. Yet every province except New Brunswick keeps up such house; while the Dominion maintains Rideau Hall for the Governor-General and Ottawa "society."

Our various governors all hold office as representing the Crown or Royalty. It seems to be conceived that the dignity of royalty is somehow kept up by supporting royalties at the public expenses, even as lunatics and criminals are supported, though much more pompously, extravagantly, and unnecessarily.

If the Labor party attains political power in England, may Canadians not entertain hope that a laboring man or mechanic may be duly appointed Governor-General of Canada; a man averse to pomp, one consistently resolute to live in a cottage or a boarding house? How cheerfully would our "society" then agree that Rideau Hall and all the viceregal expenditures for its upkeep, should be abolished as quite outside constitutional requirement.

Behold the new Government House of Ontario, in Toronto! Also look on the pleasing countenance of Lieutenant-Governor Lionel H. Clarke, a very good business man, and a large grain-handler. Recently he wrote Premier Drury, in effect at least, that he would not have accepted the governorship except for his belief that the new palace would be kept up for him at provincial expense.

The Farmer party, now in power in Ontario, had meant to suppress the absurd thing and save the money that was worse than wasted on it. Premier Drury soon found out that the ground on which the new, great mansion stands had been bought by the late "Tory" government under engagement to devote it all to the palace or to private residential purposes. Hence Mr. Drury could not convert the whole thing to hospital uses, as he had designed.

Mr. Raney, the Attorney-General in Drury's cabinet, recently stated that the upkeep of the new Government House was costing \$100,000 a year, including interest on cost. It had required, in capital outlay, almost \$1,100,000 up to last February. Keeping the place in appropriate shape during 1919 cost nearly \$40,000, including \$10,000 for decorating it in honor of Prince Charming, of Wales.

Mr. Raney said: "On the one hand we are invited by the farmers and some others to economy. On the other hand we have a more or less ornamental institution that is costing us \$100,000 a year. On the one hand we are told that we must have an adequate place in which to entertain royalty, vice-royalty, and other distinguished people when they come to Toronto. On the other

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hand we are told that the institution is undemocratic, and that, as things go, no poor but honest man—no farmer, no laborer, no college professor, no premier could accept the office—that, in short, under existing conditions, the lieutenant-governorship is a job for a rich man only. Then it was pointed out that our national debt is now over two billions of dollars, six times what it was in 1914, with interest fifty per cent higher than it was then, and that our provincial debt is twice what it was in 1914."

Surely the mere facts should ordain abolition of Government Houses. How much more essentially dignified would Governor Clarke's course be

if he insisted on the shutting up of the absurdity.

Such abolition was proposed twenty-five years ago by an Ontario member of Legislature who then represented the "Patrons of Husbandry," an association or party of farmers who, too, soon ceased from vigorous agitation for common-sense dealing in general. Possibly we may get the like from the Farmer cabinet of Mr. Drury, though both the old parties seem keen to embarrass him.

It would appear to the observing eye and reflective mind that it might be good policy for Mr. Drury to cause extensive circulation throughout Ontario of that number of Construction (a magazine conducted in the interest of architects, civil engineers, and contractors) which devoted no less than seventy large and handsome pages to illustrating the beauties, glories, decorations, gardens, grounds, conveniences, and so on, of the new gubernatorial palace at Toronto.

The world has had a terrible lesson as to what comes to the rivalries of the devotees of pomp and luxury. The World War came of long international competition of nations to display, and maintain themselves in means to display perennially, modernized Belshazzar's feasts. If mene, mene, tekell, upharsin be not now written on The Wall of Time by the mysterious power that flashed it on the wall in Babylon, then the meaning of today's scroll seems untranslatable.

—70—

Employees of Montreal City and District Savings Bank have been granted a bonus of \$150 a year for unmarried and \$200 a year for married clerks for the year 1920. The Bank Clerks' Association urges trades unions to request other banks to follow suit.

Machinists of the Dominion Steel Corporation at Sydney are on strike demanding a 22 per cent increase in wages and Saturday afternoons off. The Company has offered 11 per cent, but refuses the Saturday afternoon, except by sections.

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THE COST OF DYING COMMISSION

(By CHARLES W. STOKES.)

On December 1st, 1920, the hearts of Canadians throughout this broad Dominion were stirred and comforted by the announcement that the Government had at last appointed a Royal Commission to enquire into the High Cost of Dying. The Order-in-Council which created this Commission was, for once, singularly to the point; it simply stated that the Commission would fill a long felt want because the cost of living was so tremendous that large numbers of people were, in desperation, dying, with the inevitable consequence that the Cost of Dying had enormously increased. One or other had to be brought down; if people could not afford to live, they ought, at all events, to be able to afford to die.

The following day the Canadian Press was able to announce the personnel of the Commission, as follows: Sir James Slawkenbuster, O. B. E., of Toronto, Capitalist; Mr. C. Jenosopha, of Okotoks, Alberta, Farmer; and Mr. Xavier Saucisson, of Trois-Rivières, ex-M.P., and lawyer. Sir James was named chairman, while Mr. Saucisson's inclusion was of course a gracious compliment to the French-Canadians. A staff of experts was also named, including Miss Grace Abounding, recently of the Circumlocution Department, Ottawa, Chief Statistician; John D. Spruce, lumberman, of New Brunswick, Expert of Coffin Lumber; Professor William Magnolia, M.A., D. Sc., of Owen Sound, Expert on Cemetery Planning; and Sydney Push, late of the Mariposa Daily Hoo-Hoo, Press Agent.

The Commission immediately buckled down to work, to the very enthusiastic plaudits of the whole Canadian public, who were very sanguine that the excessive cost of dying would be at once reduced. A special train, including the Governor General's private car, was allotted to the Commission, so that they could go travelling up and down and hold sessions all over the place. Miss Abounding put in a requisition for, and obtained, a quartette of electrically driven adding-machines and two calculating machines.

I attended only one of these sessions myself. It was just after the Commission had issued its famous order that doctors were not to charge for operations performed upon persons who were, so to speak, just going to croak anyway. Dr. Walter Slaughter, F.R.C.S., etc., was appealing the order. His contention was that the patient didn't know what was good for him, and had to rely upon his medical adviser to select what was wanted.

SIR JAMES SLAWKENBUSTER: "The point is, we are here to make it cheaper for people to die than to live. You seem to think there ought to be no difference."

DR. SLAUGHTER: "I can promise you, Mr. Chairman, that unless

this order is rescinded you will see all the doctors in Canada out on strike in less than two weeks."

SIR JAMES: "Well, we should worry. That would be one item in the High Cost of Dying eliminated."

DR. SLAUGHTER (ominously): "Maybe — but fewer people will die then."

The next witness was Martin H. Hearse, President of the Canadian Consolidated Coffin Company.

MR. HEARSE: "I am present, gentlemen, to appeal on behalf of the members of the coffin-manufacturing

business against your recent order which stipulates that the profits upon a coffin must not exceed fifty cents."

MR. SAUCISSON: "On what grounds?"

MR. HEARSE: "The labor situation, the exchange situation, and the fact that limiting the profits of such a business as this would stifle a young Canadian industry in its infancy, resulting in large importations of coffins from the United States, which would still further affect the present adverse exchange rate."

SIR JAMES: "I suppose, in your opinion, the coffin business should be subsidized by a bonus from the government?"

MR. HEARSE: "You're darn right, sir. Think of the huge demand for Canadian lumber and Canadian nails — to say nothing of Canadian

labor — that would be created by the use of more coffins!"

After consultation with his colleagues, Sir James announced that the subject would be taken under advisement, and that if it was found that the contentions of the coffin manufacturers were justified, an increase would certainly be allowed.

The next witness was Frederick Oates, Business Agent of the Canadian Funeral Horse Breeders' Association.

MR. OATES: "Your Board has issued an order that the maximum charge per funeral horse shall be three-eighths of a cent per pound, live weight. I wish to appeal this."

MR. JENOSOPHA: "Why?"

MR. OATES: "The price is so low that it does not pay to raise funeral horses, and the members of our association will quit raising them unless they get a higher rate."

MR. JENOSOPHA: "Oh, come off! I'm a farmer myself, and I know something about horses. A man who can't team funerals at three-eighths of a cent per pound is a profiteer."

MR. OATES: "That isn't the point, Mr. Jenosopha. It's the distance. You take a small town, where the cemetery's within a stone's throw of everybody; why, the rate you allow is perfectly satisfactory. But take a big city. As often as not it's a couple of miles or more out to the cemetery; that means at least four miles there and back, or, in other words, practically only one round trip per day."

MR. JENOSOPHA: "Well, what about it?"

MR. OATES: "It would be much fairer to the profession if a sliding scale could be arranged. Let the three-eighths cent stand, but fix a standard distance with a supplementary charge for everything beyond."

SIR JAMES: "What supplementary charge is suggested?"

MR. OATES: "I would suggest thirty-nine thousandths of a cent per pound, live weight, per horse per mile beyond one mile, going and returning."

MR. JENOSOPHA: "The witness's suggestions sounds very reasonable, Sir James, and I endorse it."

MR. SAUCISSON: "I agree."

SIR JAMES: "Supplementary charge allowed."

The next witness was John H. Goat, who announced himself as a member of the public.

MR. GOAT: "I wish to protest against the growing practice of lawyers collecting legal fees in advance for such things as making wills, etc."

SIR JAMES: "In advance?"

MR. GOAT: "Yes. Formerly a lawyer would figure on getting his rake-off out of the heirs, but now he wants it right away from the would-be deceased."

SIR JAMES: "Why?"

MR. GOAT: "I dunno. It certainly adds a terrible burden to the cost of dying."

SIR JAMES: "But surely if the deceased pays these fees the survivors don't, so it's as broad as it is long."

MR. GOAT: "I thought, sir, that this Commission was supposed to re-

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duce the high cost of living while you are still alive and not after you were dead."

SIR JAMES (sternly): "Don't get flippant. Remember you are on oath."

MR. GOAT: "But will this Commission order lawyers to collect their bills from the survivors, or won't it?"

Sir James had a long discussion, sotto voce, with the other Commissioners. All the experts were hastily summoned, and they brought huge books, charts, blue prints, etc., etc., but shook their heads dubiously when the point was explained to them. The Commission's lawyers were next consulted, and there was much thumbing and poring of statutes. Finally Sir James said: "I am afraid that this matter is one over which this Board has no jurisdiction, Mr. Goat."

The next witness was Henry W. Brass, Vice-President and General Manager of the Western Ontario Coffin Handle Makers, Ltd.

SIR JAMES: "Well, Mr. Brass, have you got those figures we ordered you to bring?"

MR. BRASS: "Yes." (Six negro porters stagger up to the table with piles upon piles of papers and charts.) "You issued an order fixing the price of coffin handles at \$2.19 for copper, \$2.39 for bronze, and 89 cents for oxydized tin. I have here my production sheets, cost sheets, purchasing vouchers, payrolls and so on to prove that the lowest we should have is \$3.49 for copper, \$5.27 for bronze, and \$1.52 for tin. In the year 1919 it cost us \$2.18½ to make a copper handle, leaving half a cent for profit, which, upon an investment of \$200,000,000, and deducting depreciation, good will, renewal of plant, reserves for contingencies, excess profits tax, super-tax on income, bad debts, customs, theatre tax, sleeping car tax, three-cent postage, is absurd."

SIR JAMES (yawning): "Are all those papers statistics?"

MR. BRASS: "Yes."

SIR JAMES: "How far do they go back?"

MR. BRASS: "To the Fenian Raid."

SIR JAMES: "Are they all in detail like you've just quoted?"

MR. BRASS: "Yes."

SIR JAMES: "Let me see, what is the price again of coffin handles imported from the States?"

MR. BRASS: "Copper handles imported from the States, including customs, are \$4.50."

SIR JAMES: "I think it only reasonable that Canadian industry should not suffer from American competition. Our previous decision is reversed, and \$4.50 is allowed for all handles, including tin."

MR. JENOSOPHAT AND MR. SAUCISSON: "We concur."

SIR JAMES: "We have now a most serious matter. Five days ago we ordered that no cemetery should accept for interment within its area more than ten per cent of non-residents. In spite of this, the Pleasant View Cemetery, Ltd., of this city, ignores the order altogether. Out of the total interments since the date of our order, nearly sixty per cent have been non-residents. It is a very rotten thing to defy the orders of this

Commission. Is the Pleasant View Cemetery, Ltd., here?"

MR. HORACE GLUCOSE, K.C.: "I appear for them, Sir James."

SIR JAMES: "I have here a sworn statement that the Pleasant View Cemetery not only defy our order, but have also ejected the sheriff we sent to take possession. Is that correct?"

MR. GLUCOSE: "I protest this question, as being ultra vires and otium cum dignitate."

SIR JAMES: "Is it also correct that if this order is upheld they threaten to close down altogether?"

MR. GLUCOSE: "Question protested."

SIR JAMES: "You realize, I suppose, the serious consequences that would ensue if a cemetery were to close down with people dying every day?"

MR. GLUCOSE: "I will consult my clients, Sir James, and find out if they are willing that I should answer that question."

SIR JAMES: "Anyway, what are you going to do about it?"

MR. GLUCOSE: "On behalf of my clients, I deny that this Commission has any powers at all to order them to do anything."

SIR JAMES: "You mean to say we can't tell you where you get off, hey?"

MR. GLUCOSE: "Yes, exactly that. I demand to see your constitutional authority from the British North America Act."

SIR JAMES: "You do do you? Well, just wait and see. We'll show you. What do you think we are, anyhow — a bunch of rummies? Go ahead — demand all you like." (Mr. Saucisson nudges his elbow). "Oh yes. Court adjourned for lunch. Next meeting will be at New Westminster, B. C., a week from next Tuesday."

—:0:—

SPARKS FROM LABOR'S ANVIL

Brantford Labor Council opposes the formation of overall clubs arguing that they will be detrimental to the tailors and garment workers.

* * *

Builders' wages in Manitoba have been increased 20 to 25 per cent by the Fair Wages Board.

* * *

Brompton Pulp and Paper pressmen are on strike declaring the company wants to make them operate two machines each, instead of one.

* * *

Canada's employment service found positions for 9,201 persons during the week ended April 10th.

* * *

The threatened May Day strike of Hamilton building trades is likely to be avoided as a result of a conference between the contractors and the unions.

* * *

Clerks in Fredericton post-office will don overalls.

* * *

Toronto garment workers have been

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awarded increases of from \$3 to \$5 a week by the arbitration board headed by Professor H. B. Sharman. Three thousand workers are affected.

A conference on Labor laws opened at Ottawa on Monday, with delegates present from all the provinces, except Prince Edward Island.

Winnipeg radicals say May Day will be "an all day holiday—not a one day strike".

Montreal carters threaten strike if their demand for an eight-hour day,

with 60 cents an hour, making \$28.80 a week for team drivers, and \$24 a week for drivers of single waggons is not met.

A new trades union was formed in Montreal this week by the hotel clerks, waiters and bar-tenders.

"What animal makes the nearest approach to man?" asked the teacher.

"The cootie," replied the red-headed boy.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.

OUR LONDON LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, April 1st.

I AM rather afraid the impression may be given that British workers are always either striking or threatening to strike. Every week I have to record some industrial dispute, with the result that we must appear to superficial observers a very quarrelsome lot of people over here.

The fact is that while British Labor is permeated by a good deal of what the old Socialists used to call "divine discontent", they find it just as difficult as do their comrades in other parts of the world to even maintain the standard of living, much less raise it, without threatening a stoppage.

I should estimate that five times out of six the stoppage does not take place, fear of it having forced sufficient of a concession to tide over for the time being.

Our classic example of the moment is the case of the miners. Since I wrote last important things have happened. I told of the demand for 75c per shift for men and 35c for boys and of the government's offer of a percentage estimated to yield an average of 48c a day for men and 24c for boys and asked "Why then should not a flat rate of 50c and 25c respectively be offered?"

After a large amount of undignified haggling, the Government have done what practically amounts to this. They have offered guaranteed minima of 50c for men, 25c for lads between 16 and 18, and 18c for boys under 16.

The miners' delegate conference which concluded its sittings this week discussed this very seriously and finally announced that it would ballot the men on the alternative proposals. Ballot papers are returnable on April 14th and the question of whether there is to be a strike or not will be announced at a conference next day.

What are the prospects? I, for one, am inclined to predict that the offer will be accepted, as these proposals have a habit of being, as a meantime measure, on the principle that the bird in hand exceeds in value the bird that is still in the bush. From what I know of our coalfields I venture to think the South Wales, the most profitable of them all, will vote against, and numbers of Scottish colliers will. But a two third majority is necessary before a strike can be declared and I fancy the midland coalfields, not being exporting and so not yielding the huge profits which some of the others do, will be able to swing the pendulum in favor of acceptance.

An important point which may be of interest is made by Frank Hodges, the miners' secretary, in an interview he has just given.

"An increase in wages alone," he said "does not necessarily mean a net lasting gain. Under existing conditions it may be merely another movement in the vicious circle, and for that reason I still deeply regret that the Government has refused to entertain

suggestions for lowering prices. The point I want to make, however, is this. I regard a reduction in hours for men working under miners' conditions, together with a maintenance of earnings, as more real and definite social progress than an increase of wages alone can secure. Its human value is greater.

"Hence I am much more concerned about the position which will arise in July next year than I am about fighting for the extra shilling now. At that time, if the economic conditions of the industry justify the change, we shall be entitled under the Sankey award to the six hour day, and our ability to obtain it will depend entirely on the maintenance of our capacity for united action."

Tram and bus men throughout the country have put out strike notices to obtain a \$2.50 a week increase for the former. This caused a sensation for a day or two and gave the municipal authorities cold feet when they attended an Industrial Council to debate the demand. But the men simply had to send out papers because their employers have offered them such meagre advances that they would scarcely have covered the advance in the price of bread, let alone the other soaring costs. The dispute was settled on Wednesday, the men receiving an-



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other \$1.25 with the promise of another 25c in June.

The dockers have done splendidly in their fight for \$4 a day and other advantages. The Court of Inquiry met again last night and announced that it recommends the money to be given in all the large ports, with a slight reduction in the small ones which rely mainly on coastwise trade. But that is not all.

The recommendations include:

The recognition of the injustice of casual labor and the need for providing against the economic hardships imposed upon the workers who are its victims.

The establishment of a central employment fund to be financed mainly by the various port organizations.

The registration of all bona fide dockers.

The payment to such dockers of a retaining fee in part compensation for uncertain character of their work and in order to ensure a steady supply of experienced and capable labor.

This last recommendation is an industrial development without parallel. If put into effect it will mean that not only Ernest Bevin, who represents the men at the enquiry, but every dock laborer in every port will be a "bar-rister". It will lift the docker at a stroke from the status of a casual laborer who has been accustomed to work hard when there was work to do and to "make ends meet" when times are slack, to the level of a recognized permanent workman sure of his job and certain of some sort of income, irrespective of whether circumstances over which he has no control call for his services or not. In the opinion of the court casual labor at the docks, as it has been hitherto understood, must disappear and the men must be assured of some security of tenure and income.

On April 21st and 22nd a conference of Labor women will be held in London under the auspices of the Labor Party and the standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations. All the women's organizations affiliated to these two bodies will send delegates to the conference, which will be presided over by Miss Mary Macarthur.

Among the resolutions to be submitted to the conference that on housing is perhaps of the most immediate importance. It demands (1) a public inquiry into the prices of building materials, with a view to breaking down private monopolies; (2) the encouragement of building guilds; (3) the raising of a National Housing Loan; (4) to call working women into consultation in regard to house and lay out plans; (5) to introduce a temporary scheme for the rationing of houses.

Other resolutions deal with maternity and child welfare, the milk supply and coal nationalization.

Ethelbert Pogson.

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What British Labor Means To Do

(By Ethelbert POGSON, London
Correspondent of the Rail-
roader.)

It is particularly timely that I should have been asked just now to explain what are the aims of the British Labor Party, because Premier Lloyd George has been making a fierce attack upon its plans and policy in an endeavor to consolidate his own position.

He declared that the men who represent it in Parliament do not reflect the real movement, which is one of Socialism and Communism, and more than once he used the word Bolshevism.

It is true that British Labor is whole-hearted for nationalization of great public services — mines, railways, shipping, banking — it is true that it is the declared enemy of unbridled capitalism. But it is not true that it seeks communism of the old French type or revolution of the Russian kind. It is all for, if you like, revolution by evolution. It is not out for confiscation, excepting in the sense in which that cry is raised by those who protest against the rich being taxed to bear the burdens of the poor.

The taxation system British Labor would introduce would be regulated not by the interests of the possessing and grabbing classes, but of those who are now bearing their unfair share. Holding stoutly to the doctrine of Free Trade, Labor over here believes there should not be any indirect taxation on the necessities of life, but upon luxuries. A capital levy on huge incomes is part of its proposals for paying our heavy war debts, and in all its financial desires it seeks to prevent the accumulation of large private fortunes. So much for the allegation that it is the party of confiscation.

The four cardinal principal of British Labor have been described by its executive and endorsed by a national conference as

- (a) Universal enforcement of the national minimum.
- (b) Democratic control of industry.
- (c) Revolution in national finance.
- (d) Surplus wealth for the common good.

Under the first heading it believes in and works for securing to every member of the community, in good times and bad alike, all the requisites of a healthy life. In order to ensure this it holds that there must be legislative regulation of employment. A minimum wage must be secured to all who labor, whether they be skilled or unskilled, fortunate or unfortunate. Hours worked should not be more than 44 per week — some organizations are working for a 40-hour week. Factory

Acts must be improved and their operation extended. There must be equal pay for equal work wherever both sexes are employed, and there must be opportunity of employment for all.

Against the capitalist idea that a margin of unemployment is necessary in order that cheap labor may be secured the British Labor Party has always set its face. To those who say British men and women

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should emigrate if there is not enough for them to do here it says: "If a man or woman wishes to emigrate that is his or her affair. If they do not, there should be enough for them in the home country to make their emigration unnecessary." There is, says Labor, plenty to do in building houses, schools, technical colleges, in making new roads, in laying down light railways, in afforestation and the

reclamation of land in a score of other things, to find work and a decent livelihood for all our people if only organization were brought to bear.

It is when we come to the democratization of industry that the most serious cleavage occurs. Labor demands the progressive elimination from the control of industry of the private capitalist, individual or joint stock. It believes that the nation should own the means of production and distribution, that electricity should no longer be controlled and sold by a number of cheap local concerns, but should be organized by co-ordination of plants and run by the nation for the people.

The policy of nationalization enters into even in its discussion of the drink traffic. Labor believes that localities should have power to prohibit or permit the sale of alcoholic liquors within their own borders and that places of refreshment should be no longer mere drinking dens, but real refreshment houses, where food is as easy to obtain as liquor.

Its policy as to agriculture is especially interesting. Here it believes that there should be national farms, small holdings, municipal enterprises in the way of milk depots and the growing and sale of produce. Foodstuffs it contends should not be distributed in the present wasteful way of private competition, but there should be consumers' co-operative societies and municipal schemes on a much larger scale than those which now exist, to ensure the housewife obtaining what she requires for her breakfast table at a lower cost than that to which she is now subjected.

It is sometimes alleged against the British Labor Party that it has no clear foreign policy. As a matter of fact that has been plainly laid down in "Labor and the New Social Order", an official pamphlet. For the British Empire it believes in Home Rule all round — a Britannic Alliance rather than the old type of Empire.

"As regards our relations to foreign countries, we disavow and disclaim any desire or intention to dispossess or to impoverish any other State or Nation. We seek no increases of territory. We disclaim all idea of economic war. We ourselves object to all protective customs tariffs, but we hold that each nation must be left free to do what it thinks best for its own economic development, without thought of injuring others.

"We would put an end to the old entanglements and mystifications of secret diplomacy and the formation of Leagues against Leagues."

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